



## Legislation Text

**File #:** 0907-2021, **Version:** 1

This legislation authorizes the Director of Public Utilities to modify and extend the service contract with Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC (formerly known as Asplundh Tree Expert Company) for Power Line Clearance, Tree Trimming, and Removal Services for the various divisions within the Department of Public Utilities. This current modification No. 7, in the amount of \$220,000.00, will provide additional funding needed by the Division of Power and the Division of Water and extend the term of the contract through July 31, 2021. This service contract provides power line clearance, tree trimming, and removal services associated with the maintenance of the City's electric distribution systems and related infrastructure throughout the Department of Public Utilities. Work will be performed within the City of Columbus corporation limits or other areas serviced by City agencies.

The Director of Public Utilities publicly opened two bids on January 18, 2017. Asplundh Tree Expert Company was deemed to be the lowest, best, most responsive and responsible bid. The original contract was for a period of one (1) year from the date of execution through and including April 10, 2018 with the option to renew for an additional one (1) year period. After the initial two years, the contract can then be extended for two (2) additional one (1) year periods, or a portion thereof based upon mutual agreement of the parties, availability of funding, and approval by Columbus City Council. The contract provided for the provision that if additional funding is necessary, a modification would be requested. This modification is to provide the additional funding necessary for the payment of services to be provided through July 31, 2021.

This Ordinance is being submitted in accordance with the relevant provisions of Chapter 329 of the City Code pertaining to contract modifications and renewals.

**SUPPLIER:** Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC, DAX Vendor #001744, (EIN #23-1277550), Expires 11/20/2022  
Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC does not hold MBE/FBE status.

The company is not debarred according to the Excluded Party Listing System of the Federal Government or prohibited from being awarded a contract according to the Auditor of State Unresolved Findings for Recovery Certified Search.

1. Amount of additional funds: Total amount of additional funds needed for this contract modification No. 7 is ADD \$220,000.00 (\$200,000.00 for the Division of Power and \$20,000.00 for the Division of Water). Total contract amount including this modification is \$2,391,107.76.
2. Reasons additional funds were not foreseen: The possibility of the need for additional funds was known at the time of the initial contract. This modification is to provide the additional funding necessary for the payment of services provided through July 31, 2021.
3. Reason other procurement processes were not used: Work under this modification is a continuation of services included in the scope of the original bid contract. No lower pricing/more attractive terms and conditions are anticipated at this time.
4. How was cost determined: The cost, terms, and conditions are in accordance with the original agreement.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** A total of \$200,000.00 for the Division of Power and \$20,000.00 for the Division of Water is budgeted and needed for this contract modification.

\$448,462.09 was spent in 2020 (Div. of Water & Div. of Power)  
\$582,119.16 was spent in 2019 (Div. of Water & Div. of Power)  
\$533,353.78 was spent in 2018 (Div. of Water & Div. of Power)

**EMERGENCY DESIGNATION:** This ordinance is being submitted as an emergency because, without emergency action, no less than 37 days will be added to this procurement cycle. Emergency legislation will expedite the completion of the modification and availability of funds for this critical service contract.

To authorize the Director of Public Utilities to modify and extend the service contract with Asplundh Tree Expert LLC for the Power Line Clearance, Tree Trimming, and Removal Services Project; to authorize the expenditure of \$200,000.00 from the Electricity Operating Fund and \$20,000.00 from the Water Operating Fund; and to declare an emergency (\$220,000.00).

**WHEREAS,** the Department of Public Utilities maintains a comprehensive program to manage trees and brush that grow around power lines and other department infrastructure and the program has shown to be effective at improving the reliability of service that it provides its customers, and

**WHEREAS,** the Department of Public Utilities has a contract with Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC for Power Line Clearance, Tree Trimming, and Removal Services for the various divisions of the Department, and

**WHEREAS,** the Department of Public Utilities, Division of Power, wishes to modify PO056186 with Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC for Power Line Clearance, Tree Trimming, and Removal Services to provide additional funding necessary for use by the Division of Power and extend the term of the contract through July 31, 2021, and

**WHEREAS,** the vendor has agreed to modify and extend PO056186 at current prices and conditions, and it is in the best interest of the City to exercise this option, and

**WHEREAS,** this Ordinance is being submitted in accordance with the relevant provisions of Chapter 329 of the City Code pertaining to contract modifications and renewals, and

**WHEREAS,** this Ordinance authorizes the expenditure of \$220,000.00, or so much thereof as may be needed, from the Electricity Operating Fund (\$200,000.00) and the Water Operating Fund (\$20,000.00), and

**WHEREAS,** an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the Department of Public Utilities in that it is immediately necessary to authorize the Director to modify and extend its contract with Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC to expedite the provision of this critical service, thereby preserving the public health, peace, property, safety and welfare; Now, Therefore,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:**

**SECTION 1.** That the Director of Public Utilities be and is hereby authorized to modify and extend contract No. PO056186 with Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC, for Power Line Clearance, Tree Trimming, and Removal Services for the Department of Public Utilities, in accordance with the terms and conditions as shown in the agreement on file in the office of the Division of Power and the Division of Water. Total amount of modification No. 7 is ADD \$200,000.00 for the Division of Power and ADD \$20,000.00 for the Division of Water. Total contract amount including this modification is \$2,391,107.76.

**SECTION 2.** That said firm shall conduct the work to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Utilities and the Administrators of the Division of Power and the Division of Water.

**SECTION 3.** That the expenditure of \$220,000.00 or so much thereof as may be needed, be and is hereby authorized in Fund 6300 (Electricity Operating) and Fund 6000 (Water Operating); in object class 03 Services per the accounting codes in the attachment to this ordinance.

**SECTION 4.** That the funds necessary to carry out the purpose of this ordinance are hereby deemed appropriated and the City Auditor shall establish such accounting codes as necessary.

**SECTION 5.** That the City Auditor is authorized to make any accounting changes to revise the funding source for all contracts, contract modifications, or contract renewals associated with this Ordinance.

**SECTION 6.** That for reasons stated in the preamble hereto, which is hereby made a part hereof, this Ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor, or ten days after passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.